

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan

Botany Division
Indian Agricultural
Research Institute
New Delhi 12, India.
8th February, 1958

Dear Dr. Lederberg;

It was only recently that I learnt from Drs. Gopal-Ayengar and Srinivasan that you and Esther had come to India last year. I am sorry that you could not get time to Delhi but I do hope that we will have the pleasure of having a visit from you in the near future.

I am writing this letter to ascertain whether it would be possible for you to take a colleague of mine, Mr. A. T. Ganesan, to do graduate work in Microbial genetics and to provide him with an assistantship. Mr Ganesan worked for 2 years with Dr. M. K. Subramaniam at Bangalore on the cytology of yeasts. He disagreed with Dr. Subramaniam's views concerning endopolyploidy in yeasts and had to leave his laboratory. The results of the study he carried out in Bangalore have been published in a paper entitled 'The nucleus of yeast cell- a study of five day old fermenting cultures' published in Cytologia, Vol 21; pages 124-134; 1956. He joined my section here in October, 1955 and did some excellent work on cytological techniques in relation to study of the mitosis in yeasts. The technique which he standardised is now under publication in Stain Technology and from that paper (I think that it will appear in March, 1958 issue) it will be obvious that the microphotographs presented are the best among the ones which have so far been published. We have also a joint paper concerning the mechanics of mitosis and the movements of the daughter nuclei in yeasts, which may shortly appear in Nature.

In September 1957, Mr. Ganesan left for Copenhagen to take up a short-term fellowship offered by Prof. Winge to work at the Carlsberg Laboratory on problems in yeast genetics and cytology. Both Prof. Holter and Prof. Winge are immensely pleased with the work Ganesan is doing there and I think they are anxious to keep him there for some more time.

We wish that Ganesan, on his return from training abroad, should initiate work on microbial genetics in the Wing for Fundamental Plant Genetical Research which is being set up now at this Institute. From this point of view, I feel that it will be very useful if he can get an opportunity to work with you and to be associated with your group. He is also anxious to work for Ph.D and the procedure in this regard in Denmark is very complex. I shall be very grateful if you could kindly let me know whether you will be in a position to offer a fellowship to Ganesan with effect from September 1958. I am not asking for a firm offer and you could ofcourse satisfy yourself by getting the information you may need, both from Prof. Winge and Ganesan.

before finally deciding in this matter. I only want to know the possibilities so that I could ask Ganesan to send you full particulars about his past and present work and future plans. My work is progressing well. I am mostly engaged in the study of problems in radiation genetics.

With my best personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. S. Swaminathan
(M. S. Swaminathan)

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